

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated November 23, 1999, the deadline to which has been extended by three (3) months from February 23, 2000 to May 23, 2000, by petition and payment of fee.

Claims 1-15 and 37-42 are pending in the present application. Applicant thanks Examiner Ho for the personal interview on May 10, 2000. In response, Claims 1, 6, 7, 10-12, 15, 40 and 42 have been amended to more particularly recite the present invention, and claims 37, 39, and 41 have been canceled. The limitations of cancelled claims 37, 39, and 41 have been added to independent claims 1, 6 and 11, respectively. Claims 1-15 and 38, 40 and 42 remain pending.

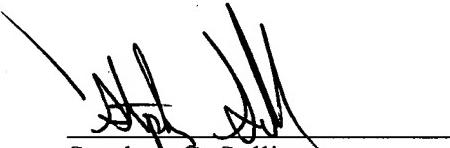
Amended independent claims 1, 6, and 11 now make clear that when an image is captured, processing data, such as the settings of the capturing device at image capture time, are stored in an image data cell to enable the camera settings to be changed or adjusted for subsequent images, thereby allowing the capturing of successive images without waiting for the completion of processing of images captured previously (page 5, lines 15-19). As claimed, a manager device is used in the present invention for "building a data cell" containing processing data and for "linking" the data cell to the image data such that the processing data so stored in the data cell can be accessed in conjunction with the corresponding image data for performing image processing. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the Specification. See for example, page 2, lines 11-17; pages 4-6 page 10, lines 14-16 page 5 lines 15-19; page 17 lines 1-4; and page 19 lines 1-7; and pages 26-30.

Claims 1-15 and 37-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kuba et al., US Patent No. 5,806,072 (hereinafter Kuba) and on Official Notice that parallel processing is well-known.

As discussed in the interview, it is believed the claims of the present invention are allowable over Kuba. Kuba teaches a system control that stores attribute data in a file header while storing video image files to disk. Kuba is primarily concerned with presenting image information in a readable manner in an imaging apparatus using a hierarchical data structure described therein, rather than providing a system for correlating processing and image data, as is the case in the present claimed invention. Because video is a real-time streaming process (direct to disk), Applicant does not understand how one would add parallel processing to Kuba so that Kuba camera could capture two videos streams at the same time. Therefore, Kuba cannot teach capturing a first image with one set of cameras settings, and then capturing a second image with different camera settings, while the first image is being processed using the previous settings.

Accordingly it is believed independent claims 1-15 and 38, 40 and 42 are allowable. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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